

REMARKS

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 3, and 5, and added new claim 14, in order to more clearly recite features of the present invention, and to round out the claim coverage to which the applicant is entitled. Support for the amendments and the new claim can be found at page 15 of the specification and in Fig. 1.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-2 under § 103(a) over Graf in view of Krueger, and also the § 103(a) rejection of claims 3-10 and 12-13 over Graf in view of JP '599.

The present invention relates to a transport member for transporting an article. Among other features, the transport member consists essentially of fiber-reinforced plastic, has a logarithm damping factor of 0.01 to 0.05 against bending vibration, is supported in a cantilever state, and has at least one first layer and at least one second layer containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented as recited in the claims.

The Examiner asserts that Graf discloses an elongate conveyor belt constructed from carbon fiber-reinforced plastic, citing col. 3, lines 29-43. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misconstrued Graf. Referring to the cited section of the Graf specification, along with Fig. 1 thereof, however, reveals that elongate members 20 are not conveyor belts, but instead are structural support members interconnecting roll mounting frame 16 with support frame 18, and may take the form of a plate, cable, "conveyor belting," or the like. Although the structural elongate members 20 can take a conveyor belt form, they are not conveyor belts used to transport articles in Graf. In the Graf disclosure, belt 14 is defined as an "endless belt for conveying . . . a paper web carried thereby" at col. 2, lines 51-54. No details are provided regarding the

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

composition of belt 14, its longitudinal damping factor, or any other feature that might correspond to aspects of the present invention. Even if such features were disclosed however, such an endless belt 14 would not suggest a transport member supported in a cantilever position, as recited in claims 1, 3, and 5, and their respective dependent claims, and would not suggest the additional structural features recited in new claim 14. Lacking a teaching or suggestion of any of the above features of the claimed invention, Graf cannot render the claims obvious under § 103(a), whether combined with Krueger, or with JP '599.

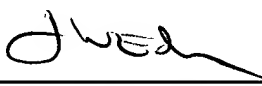
In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-10 and 11-14, withdrawal of the rejections, and a prompt allowance thereof.

If any additional fees are required to enter this response not accounted for above, please charge them to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com